

LIVESTOCK HIGHLIGHTS

CATTLE AND CALVES

Cattle numbers in Kentucky declined for the third consecutive year. The **All Cattle and Calves** inventory totaled 2.42 million head on January 1, 1999, down 2 percent from 1998 and the smallest inventory since 1990. Milk cow numbers fell to a record low 135,000 head, 7 percent below the previous record set in 1997. Milk cow numbers have declined steadily since 1986. The inventory of steers over 500 pounds and heifers over 500 pounds for slaughter showed increases from the previous year. Heifers for milk replacement and bulls over 500 pounds were unchanged from January 1998. All other classes showed declines from 1997. The 1998 calf crop totaled 1.16

million head, down 3 percent from 1997 and was the smallest calf crop since 1989.

The value of the January 1, 1999 inventory, at nearly \$1.19 billion, was 3 percent below 1997. Average value per head was \$490, compared with \$500 in 1997. Cash receipts from marketings totaled \$605 million during 1998, 6 percent below 1997. Marketings were 2 percent below 1997. Cattle prices averaged \$59.00 per hundredweight during 1998 compared with \$59.20 during 1997. Calves averaged \$74.90 per hundredweight compared with \$72.20 in 1997.

HOGS AND PIGS

The bottom fell out of the hog market at the end of 1998, making it very difficult for Kentucky producers to stay in business. The December 1, 1998 **Hog and Pig** inventory was a record low 520,000 head, 9 percent below the previous record low set in December 1997. Hogs for breeding totaled 65,000 on December 1, 1998, down 7 percent from 1997. December 1998 market hogs, at 455,000 head was 1 percent above 1997.

The 1998 pig crop, at 1.01 million, was down 10 percent from 1997. Pigs saved per litter averaged 8.43, compared with 8.38 in 1997. Producers farrowed 61,000

sows during the December 1997 - May 1998 period, 2 percent below the same period in 1997. June - November 1998 farrowings totaled 59,000 sows, 5 percent below the same period in 1997.

Kentucky's hog and pig inventory was valued at \$18.2 million on December 1, 1998, compared with \$42.2 million in 1997. Cash receipts from marketings totaled \$89 million, compared with \$142 million during 1997. Marketings slipped 5 percent from 1997, and the average price was \$35.20 per hundredweight, well below the \$52.60 recorded in 1997.

SHEEP AND WOOL

Sheep and Lambs on Kentucky farms totaled 21,000 head on January 1, 1999, down 1,000 head from 1997. Breeding ewes one year old and older on January 1, 1999 totaled 13,000 head, unchanged from 1997. The 1998 lamb crop, at 16,000 head, was 11 percent below the 1997 level. Cash receipts from marketings during 1998 came to \$963,000, down 20 percent from 1997. Marketings were 2 percent below 1997 and prices were well below the 1997 levels. Lamb prices averaged \$70 per hundredweight during 1998, 18 percent below 1997, while sheep averaged

\$29.00 per hundredweight, down 9 percent from 1997.

Wool production for 1998 totaled 130,000 pounds, up 11 percent from the 1997 output. There were 20,000 sheep and lambs shorn during 1998, 14 percent above 1997. Average weight per fleece for 1998 was 6.5 pounds compared with 6.7 pounds in 1997. Wool price averaged 32 cents per pound in 1998 compared with 41 cents in 1997. The 1998 value of wool was \$42,000, down \$6,000 from the 1997 total.

POULTRY

The **Broiler** industry continued to expand in Kentucky. Broiler production for 1998 totaled 843 million pounds from 172,000 birds. Value of production was \$333 million making broilers number four in cash receipts for Kentucky. Compared with 1997, broiler production increased 69 percent and total value rose 81 percent. The December 1, 1998 inventory of **All Chickens** (excluding

broilers) totaled 5.3 million birds, up 13 percent from 1997. Laying flocks produced 863 million eggs during 1998, a 22 percent increase from 1997. Value of sales from eggs came to \$52 million for 1998, 18 percent above 1997. Eggs averaged 72.5 cents per dozen in 1998 compared with 74.4 cents during 1997.